



# GAME NOTES



## FRANCE VS WALES



## HEAD TO HEAD

- With 19 historical fixtures between these two teams in Six Nations history, France have won 10 and Wales have won nine games. However, France have only beaten Wales once in the past seven years.

Year	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>France</b>	L	<b>W</b>	L	L	L	L	L
<b>Wales</b>	W	<b>L</b>	W	W	W	W	W

Prior to 2012, France dominated their meetings with Wales with a total of nine wins to just three for the Welsh side since 2000.

- Wales beat France 14-13 in the 2018 Six Nations, the lowest total number of points required to win a game between the sides in the competition's history.
- The teams have been separated by seven or fewer points in three of their last four Six Nations meetings, with Wales' 19-10 victory in 2016 the exception. The teams were separated by seven or fewer points in three of their previous eight meetings prior to this run.
- The ball was in play for less than 40 minutes in each of the last four meetings between France and Wales in the Six Nations.

Year	Active Time of Games
2018	36:54
2017	38:42
2016	37:30
2015	33:12

## COMMON STATISTICS

- Wales and France scored the second and third highest total number of points respectively in the 2018 Six Nations. On average, Wales scored a try every 30.8 minutes in comparison to France - who went over every 50 minutes.

- Maxime Machenaud of France and Leigh Halfpenny of Wales topped the point-scoring charts in 2018.

Rank	Player	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Maxime Machenaud (France)	50
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Leigh Halfpenny (Wales)	49

Neither of these players have been named in the squad for Round 1 of the 2019 Six Nations tournament, with Machenaud being replaced by Morgan Parra (France's second-top points scorer in the Six Nations with a total of 173 points) and Liam Williams replacing Leigh Halfpenny (who scored all 18 points against France in 2017).

- Wales and France players held the top three positions in goal kicking accuracy in the 2018 Six Nations (minimum five attempts).

Rank	Player	Attempts	Made	Accuracy
1 <sup>st</sup>	Gareth Anscombe (Wales)	5	5	100%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Maxime Machenaud (France)	20	18	90.0%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Leigh Halfpenny (Wales)	18	16	88.9%

Gareth Anscombe has secured 85% goal kicking accuracy so far in the current Guinness Pro 14 season with Cardiff Blues.

- France had a higher percentage of their own rucks cleared in 0-3 seconds than Wales in the 2018 Six Nations campaign.

France	Own Ruck Speed	Wales
60%	0-3 secs	54%
27%	3-6 secs	34%
14%	6+ secs	12%

- In the past three Six Nations campaigns, the highest percentage of rucks cleared within 0-3 seconds by the French side was 65.6% in 2016. In comparison, Wales' highest percentage was 53.8% in 2018.
- In the 2018 Six Nations, Wales were the most dangerous in the first and fourth quarter of a match, scoring over 70% of their points during these periods. France, however, scored their lowest percentage of points in the first quarter of the match.

France	Points per Period	Wales
16.7%	0-20 min	35.3%
32.4%	20-40 min	16.0%
25.0%	40-60 min	10.9%
25.9%	60-80 min	37.8%

On average, Wales scored 8.4 points per match during the first 20 minutes of play in comparison to France's 3.6 points for the same period in the 2018 Six Nations. However, France had higher averages in the second (7.0 vs 3.8) and third (5.4 vs 2.6) quarters of each game.

- When leading a game in the 2018 Six Nations, France carried the ball with over 50% of their possessions in their opponent's 22, while Wales attempted to pass the ball with 60.0% of their possessions.

France	Leading in Opposition 22	Wales
0%	Kick	2.6%
51.6%	Carry	37.4%
46.4%	Pass	60.0%

The 2018 Six Nations competition average for carries in the opposition 22 while leading a game was 42.5%

- Wales (92%) had a better scrum success percentage on their own feed than France (88%) in the 2018 Six Nations. However, both nations won only one of their opposition's scrums in 2018.
- Despite making fewer tackle attempts than Wales in the 2018 campaign, France made more dominant tackles than Wales in the competition.

France	Tackles Breakdown	Wales
924	Tackles Made	1004

69	Missed Tackles	106
90	Dominant Tackles	79

Dominant tackles made up almost 10% of the total tackle count for the French side and almost 8% for Wales, as no nation made fewer dominant tackles than Wales in 2018.

## FRANCE

- Only one of France's five tries scored at home in the 2018 Six Nations originated from a turnover.

Try Origin	France
Lineouts	2
Counter Attacks	2
Turnovers	1

The remaining three tries scored away from home also originated from a counter-attack, a lineout and a turnover.

- France scored just seven tries during the autumn internationals, including four originating from lineouts.
- Over the last three years in the Six Nations, France have played slightly more with 'ball in hand' in the second half of a match than in the first half.

Year	'Ball in Hand%'	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Half	2 <sup>nd</sup> Half
2016	94.1%	95.0%
2017	93.1%	94.6%
2018	93.3%	93.4%

However, in France's victories in the 2018 Six Nations, their ball in hand percentage decreased from the first half (95.2%) to the second half (94.0%).

- No nation won a lower percentage of their own lineouts than France (81.1%) in the 2018 Six Nations. However, France won 95.0% of their own lineouts during the autumn internationals.

- At 19 years of age, French player Romain Ntamack, inside-centre for Toulouse, is set to make his Six Nations debut for France as the youngest player in the tournament.

### Romain Ntamack – Top 14 Highlights 2018/19

Games	Tries	Goal Kicking Accuracy	Linebreaks	Carry Metres
12	4	66.7%	9	777

Romain is the son of former French winger Emile Ntamack, who made his Five Nations debut 25 years ago against Wales in 1994.

## WALES

- Wales are in prime form coming into the 2019 Six Nations having completed their first ever Autumn Test series clean sweep with victories over Scotland, Australia, Tonga and South Africa in November 2018. It also meant that Wales ended the year with nine consecutive wins - their longest unbeaten since 1999 (a ten game streak).
- Wales capitalised on turnovers to score five of their 14 tries during the autumn internationals.

Try Origin	Wales
Lineouts	4
Counter Attacks	3
Turnovers	5
Scrum	2

Five of Wales' 13 tries originated from turnovers during the 2018 Six Nations, as well as four tries from lineouts.

- In all Wales victories in the 2018 Six Nations, 40% of tries scored originated from a turnover.

Try Origin	% of tries scored
Lineout	30%
Scrum	30%

Turnover 40%

Wales scored a total of 10 tries across their three wins in 2018 against Scotland (Round 1), Italy (Round 4) and France (Round 5); three from a lineout, three from a scrum and four from a turnover.

- Conceding just 83 points in their five matches, Wales had the second best defensive performance in the in the 2018 Six Nations.

Tries conceded	Conversions conceded	Penalty Goals conceded	Drop Goals conceded
11	8	3	1
1 every 36.4 mins	1 every 50 mins	1 every 133.3 mins	1 every 400 mins

In comparison, France conceded just 6 tries in the 2018 Six Nations.

- Only two players made more dominant tackles in the 2018 Six Nations than Alun Wyn Jones (12).

Player	Total
Alessandro Zanni (Italy)	18
Jonny Gray (Scotland)	16
Alun Wyn Jones (Wales)	12
Stuart McNally (Scotland)	11

- Tomos Williams, the lightest player in the tournament at 77 kg, is set to make his Six Nations debut at scrum-half for Wales in Round 1.

### Tomos Williams – Pro 14 Highlights 2018/19

Games	Tries	Passes	Kicks	Kicking Metres
10	2	355	46	1,194

Williams is the current scrum-half for the Cardiff Blues and will be joining his club-mate Gareth Anscombe to make up Wales half-back line for Round 1 of the 2019 Six Nations.